



**foundations**

*pursuing Christ through discipleship*

# who is God?

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*for no one can lay a foundation  
other than that which is laid,  
**which is Jesus Christ.***

**1 corinthians 3:11**

**foundations: pursuing Christ through discipleship**

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## why discipleship?

the story of God is the story of a king saving his people and building his eternal kingdom—a kingdom that is made up of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. his is an ever-expanding kingdom, and it includes us as **disciples of Jesus**.

before Jesus returned to heaven after his resurrection, he commanded his disciples to go and make disciples who would then make disciples (matthew 28:19-20). you are reading these words as a result of their obedience and the obedience of generations of men and women after them.

Jesus' command to make disciples applies just as much to us today as it did to his original followers. **he desires disciples, not merely converts**. he wants us to be followers and worshippers of him, not simply spectators and fans.

*this is the essence of discipleship: follow me as together we follow Christ.*

as you use this resource, do not let this be merely a cognitive exercise. discipleship is not simply knowing more about God, but rather it is **knowing God intimately** and **daily surrendering your life to his lordship**.

read slowly. ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you more and more of who God is and his steadfast love for you specifically. pray that your heart and mind would be moved to worship as you meet with God in his word.

**in order to love God we must know him**. as our knowledge of him grows, we are to make him known. as members of the body of Christ, we get to spur one another on towards Christ-likeness through discipleship.

this is the essence of discipleship: follow me as together we follow Christ. the commandment hasn't changed—we are to be disciplined to make disciples who make disciples. his kingdom is made up of people who know him, love him, and follow him. **if you belong to him, you are a part of this kingdom**.

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*so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.*

ephesians 2:19-20

## don't skip this!

*foundations* was created to be a resource for you to use as you walk through your discipling relationships. it in no way replaces scripture as the authority on any topic or truth, but rather it is to be supplemental in your growing understanding of God and his word. the purpose of this tool is to assist in laying a solid biblical foundation as well as equip believers to study the bible and disciple others to do the same.

### a few notes as you begin:

- **pray!**

it is the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth (john 16:13), so anytime we seek to read or study scripture, we need to first **pray that the Holy Spirit would illuminate our minds** to understand the truths we will read and **soften our hearts** to let scripture transform us.

- **slow down!**

resist the temptation to treat any of this as an item on a checklist or see this as homework. do not feel the pressure to finish any portion in a single sitting or even to look up every scripture reference listed.

the end goal of this resource is not that you would finish any of it in a specific timeframe, but that you would **grow to know God and worship him more**.

- **be free!**

each section of *foundations* includes an introduction and four parts to provide a structure for getting together regularly to study and discuss the word. consider focusing on just one of these parts each week. this pace will allow you to enjoy several days reading and meditating on the scriptures as you reflect on what the Holy Spirit reveals to you before you meet to talk about it.

however, you are welcome to **move through it at whatever pace works for your discipling relationship**. everything is provided for your benefit—feel free to use it in the way that works best for you as the Spirit leads.

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**teach me your way, o Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
unite my heart to fear your name.**

psalm 86:11



**who is  
God?**



# holy

» before we dive into this attribute, consider what comes to mind when you hear the word *holy*. in your own words, how would you define holiness?

most succinctly, to be holy means to be set apart. God is holy in and of himself. he is entirely set apart and has no equal. he is completely transcendent and is perfect in all his ways, and it is *in* and *because of* his holiness that he does all things.

it is his holiness that stirs our awe and reverence—his holiness is both beautiful and terrifying:

- exodus 3:2-6
- deuteronomy 5:24
- hebrews 12:28-29

**God is jealous for his holiness and his glory.** God's jealousy is not like ours—his jealousy comes from his holiness, whereas our jealousy comes from our selfish desires, fears, and insecurities. God is jealous for us to worship him alone because he has created us for his good pleasure (philippians 2:13). there is none greater or holier than he, so it is he alone we are to worship.

- exodus 20:1-7
- isaiah 42:8
- exodus 34:14
- ezekiel 36:20-23

in our sin we cannot stand in the presence of God's holiness. because he is holy, our sin separates us from God forever if we are not in Christ, but because of Jesus, we too can be called *holy*.

- genesis 3:22-24
- hebrews 12:14
- colossians 1:21-22
- 1 peter 1:13-16

ultimately, we will worship him in his holiness for all eternity.

- exodus 15:11
- isaiah 6:1-7
- psalm 96:6-9
- revelation 4:8-11

as you reflect on what you've read, consider these questions:

- » how have these verses shaped how you view God's holiness?
- » do you truly believe that, in Christ, God sees you as holy? why or why not?
- » in learning about God's holiness, what most draws you to worship him?

“if God is holy, then he can't sin. if God can't sin, then he can't sin against me. if he can't sin against me, shouldn't that make him the most trustworthy being there is?”  
—jackie hill perry

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# love

culturally, the word *love* means many different things to many different people. people define love according to their preferences and perspectives. however, love did not originate with humankind, so our attempt to define love will never encapsulate the full understanding of **the one who is himself love: God is love** (1 john 4:8).

» *what do you believe about God's love, or what have you been taught about it?*

## he is love eternal

every attribute of God is true of him fully and eternally; love is no exception. from eternity past, before time began, God has always lived in loving communion as one Godhead in the persons of the trinity: God the father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit. he has eternally been satisfied in himself not needing anything or lacking in any way.

**God is love eternal so everything he does is done in love.** it is out of that love that God created the universe and everything in it—including you and me. we live to love and glorify him.

- deuteronomy 10:14-15
- psalm 102:25-27
- psalm 103:17-19
- john 17:22-26
- acts 17:24-28
- ephesians 1:3-6

## he loved us first

there is nothing we could have ever done to earn God's love for us. God loves us because he chose to love us. as a child of God, you are fully loved by him regardless of anything you have done; love is his motivation in choosing you.

- deuteronomy 7:6-8
- job 7:17
- john 3:16
- romans 5:6-11
- ephesians 2:4-5
- 1 john 4:7-19

» *why is it important to believe that God loved us first?*

» *do you ever struggle to believe that you are truly loved by God? why or why not?*

## his love endures forever

the phrase *steadfast love* is used around 200 times throughout the bible to describe God's unending love for his people. God's love for us is based upon his own faithfulness to his covenant promises, and we can trust his faithfulness. just as there is nothing we can do to earn God's love, there is also nothing we have to do to *keep* God's love.

- deuteronomy 7:9
- psalm 136:1-26
- jeremiah 31:3
- romans 8:38-39

**God is love from eternity past and his love will endure through all of eternity future.**

because he loves us first—before us and in spite of us—we can be set free from any false belief that we have to live perfectly for God to love us or *keep* loving us.

» *considering these verses, what most captures your heart? what truth about God's love do you desperately need to cling to right now?*

» *take some time to worship God and thank him for his great love for you.*

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loving him  
& loving his.